

Exceptional I-130 filing for U.S. Active Duty Military Members

Overview

Consular officers at US Embassy Tokyo and US Consulate General Naha may accept filing of the form I-130, Petition for Noncitizen Relative, filed by qualified U.S. military service members for any immediate relative case, when a U.S. citizen active duty military service member is stationed at a military base in Japan. This exception does not apply to service members assigned to non-military bases, such as embassies or civilian institutions, or to service members on temporary duty orders. For more information on the Military Exception, please check here: <https://jp.usembassy.gov/visas/immigrant-visas/mil-blanket-faqs/>. For an I-130 Appointment for qualified U.S. military service members, please check here: <https://jp.usembassy.gov/visas/immigrant-visas/130-petition-checklist/>.

How to start the process

Send a request from <https://jp.usembassy.gov/immigrant-visa-appointment-request-military/>

Immigration Section of the U.S. Embassy determines your eligibility for exceptional filing.

Supporting Documents

Translations do not have to be notarized as long as the translator certifies the translation.

Visit Military One Source website for free translation services for military members.

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/benefits/language-services/>

Embassy/Consulate Appointment

You must appear at the Embassy fifteen minutes prior to your appointment time. Arrive early to ensure any delays due to security do not cause you to miss your appointment. You may only bring a cellphone, small purse (no larger than 10" x 10"), clear plastic folder for documents, and an umbrella. Laptops, large purses, backpacks and food/drink are forbidden. Please read the security restrictions at the Embassy for further details of what you can and cannot bring.

<https://jp.usembassy.gov/services/security-notice-prohibited-items/>

USCIS Lockbox remains available

Although active duty U.S. service members may file a petition directly in Tokyo or Naha, the traditional method of filing an I-130 petition by mail with the USCIS remains available to all U.S. citizens petitioning for a family member. If you cannot make a trip to Tokyo or Naha, this may be a more convenient option. Please check here for more information about the I-130 process: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-130>.

Blanket Exception FAQs

Detailed information for blanket exception issued by the immigrant visa section.

Exceptional I-130 filing for US Active Duty Military Members is distributed by the Camp Zama Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 101, Room CE209. Our office hours are 0830 to 1630 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, our hours are 0830 to 1200. You may call for an appointment at DSN 262-4698/commercial 046-407-4698.

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
LEGAL ASSISTANCE
U.S. Army Japan

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